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BIGGLESWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER
of HEALTH

and

of the



PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1968

Medical Officer of Health

A. W. C. LOBBAN, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

H. W. PRIDMORE, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Biggleswade Rural District Council*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances for the District for the year 1968.

The vital statistics for the year are again satisfactory and compare favourably with those of the country as a whole.

For very many years there has been international agreement on the classification of diseases and causes of death and the Registrar General has provided annually for each local authority area an analysis of deaths based on an abridged version of the International Lists. For the eighteen years to 1967, this abridged list consisted of thirty-six causes. However, following a further revision of the International Classification, the Registrar General has revised his Short list and it now comprises sixty-five causes. Because of the length of the new list, the table which shows the causes of death only contains those causes from which a death occurred.

No major outbreak of infectious disease occurred and once more there was no case of diphtheria or poliomyelitis in the district.

This satisfactory state of affairs can only be maintained if full acceptance of the immunisations available for their children is continued by the public. Immunisation against measles was commenced by the Health Department of the County Council in 1968 and we look forward to the beneficial results of this in the years to come.

I wish to thank the members of the Council for their whole-hearted co-operation, and the members of the staff, particularly Mr. Pridmore, who is responsible for the bulk of this report, for their courtesy and efficiency at all times.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

A. W. C. LOBBAN,

Medical Officer of Health

BIGGLESWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for 1968

1. STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	..	..	..	..	..	50,827
Registrar General's estimate of home population mid-year 1968	..	..	..	..	..	33,500
Number of inhabited houses	..	..	..	..	..	10,097
Rateable value as at 31st December, 1968	..	..	..	..	..	£925,913
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	£3,630

2. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The district is mainly agricultural and is famous for its market gardening industry.

Small industry includes light engineering, brick making, milling and the manufacture of fertilizers over twenty-five scattered parishes.

Several villages such as Potton, Shefford, Arlesey and Stotfold are quite large; others like Astwick and Eyeworth are only very small hamlets. There has been considerable growth in the population of such villages as Langford and Clifton where young people have come to live. Many of these work out of the district.

The area is very prosperous and employment is plentiful.

3. VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	318	317	635
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	15	18	33
Total					333	335	668

Crude birth rate per 1,000 Home population	..	19.9
Adjusted birth rate per 1,000 Home population	..	20.69
Birth rate for England and Wales	..	16.9

Still Births

					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	5	6	11
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
Total					5	6	11

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births	..	16.0
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales	..	14.0

Deaths

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
All causes	169	186	355
Crude death rate per 1,000 Home Population ..			10.6
Area comparability Factor			0.78
Adjusted death rate per 1,000 Home Population ..			8.26
Death rate for England and Wales			11.9

Deaths Connected with Childbirth

Maternal Mortality .. Nil

Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	6	4	10
Illegitimate	1	—	1
	—	—	—
Total	7	4	11
	—	—	—
Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births			16.0
Rate for England and Wales			18.0
Neo-natal Mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)			12.3
Early Neo-natal Mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)			10.5
Peri-natal Mortality rate (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)			25.0

STATISTICAL TABLE, 1959-1968

Year	Death Rate		Birth Rate		Infant Mortality Rate	
	Biggleswade Rural	England & Wales	Biggleswade Rural	England & Wales	Biggleswade Rural	England & Wales
1959	9.6	11.6	15.5	16.5	9.4	22.0
1960	10.7	11.5	17.1	17.1	13.8	21.7
1961	10.2	12.0	19.4	17.4	6.0	21.4
1962	9.5	11.9	19.8	18.0	12.6	21.4
1963	10.8	12.2	18.9	18.2	20.0	20.9
1964	9.9	11.3	18.6	18.4	12.7	20.0
1965	10.8	11.5	22.6	18.1	19.3	19.0
1966	9.9	11.7	21.7	17.7	14.9	19.0
1967	8.09	11.2	21.94	17.2	10.0	18.3
1968	8.26	11.9	20.69	16.9	16.0	18.0

CAUSES OF DEATH—1968

Cause	Under 15 years		15-64		65 and over		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Other Tuberculosis, incl. late effects ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ..	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach ..	—	—	—	—	5	4	9
Malignant Neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus ..	—	—	7	—	6	—	13
Malignant Neoplasm—Breast ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Leukaemia ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc. ..	—	—	6	3	7	10	26
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Diabetes Mellitus ..	—	—	—	2	—	2	4
Anaemias ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Mental Disorders ..	—	—	1	2	4	7	14
Meningitis ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc. ..	1	—	3	—	—	1	5
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease ..	—	—	2	1	1	1	5
Hypertensive Disease ..	—	—	1	—	—	2	3
Ischaemic Heart Disease ..	—	—	13	1	17	28	59
Other Forms of Heart Disease ..	—	—	2	—	10	12	24
Cerebrovascular Disease ..	—	—	—	6	12	37	55
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ..	—	—	—	—	9	4	13
Influenza ..	—	—	—	—	5	—	5
Pneumonia ..	3	—	1	1	7	18	30
Bronchitis and Emphysema ..	—	—	1	—	9	1	11
Asthma ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ..	—	—	1	2	2	2	7
Peptic Ulcer ..	—	—	1	—	3	2	6
Appendicitis ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Cirrhosis of Liver ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System ..	—	—	—	—	2	2	4
Hyperplasia of Prostate ..	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System ..	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System ..	—	—	—	1	2	—	3
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc. ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality ..	4	2	—	—	—	—	6
Symptoms and Ill-defined Conditions ..	—	—	—	—	3	5	8
Motor Vehicle Accidents ..	2	1	4	1	2	1	11
All Other Accidents ..	—	1	1	—	—	8	10
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
All other External Causes ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Totals ..	11	7	46	22	112	157	355

4. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

The Bedfordshire County Council is responsible for the provision of this service which is given direct at clinics and schools or through the General Medical Practitioners. Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Measles, Poliomyelitis, Smallpox and Tuberculosis are the diseases against which protection is given.

5. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	Notification by Age Groups					
	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	Over 15	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	2	3	—	—	5
Whooping Cough	—	1	2	—	1	4
Measles	2	69	49	1	1	122
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	3	3
Jaundice	—	—	—	—	1	1
Tuberculosis—Respiratory ..	—	—	—	—	3	3
Non-Respiratory ..	—	—	—	—	2	2

NOTIFICATIONS BY PARISHES

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Pneumonia	Jaundice	Tuberculosis Respiratory	Tuberculosis Non-Respiratory	Total Notifications Received
Arlesey	1	—	5	—	—	—	—	6
Blunham	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Caldecote	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Dunton	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Everton	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Henlow & R.A.F. ..	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	3
Langford	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	8
Northill	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Potton	1	2	54	—	—	—	—	57
Shefford	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
Sutton	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Stotfold	3	—	45	2	—	2	1	53
Upper Stondon ..	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Totals	5	4	122	3	1	3	2	140

6.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows the number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified and the number of deaths for the years 1959-1968.

Year	NEW CASES				DEATHS					
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
1959	8	6	3	—	17	—	—	—	—	—
1960	4	5	3	—	12	2	—	—	—	2
1961	2	3	1	1	7	3	1	—	—	4
1962	9	3	1	1	14	3	—	1	—	4
1963	2	5	—	—	7	—	1	—	—	1
1964	2	2	—	—	4	—	1	—	—	1
1965	3	4	—	1	8	—	—	—	1	1
1966	7	5	—	—	12	1	—	—	—	1
1967	2	—	—	1	3	3	1	—	—	4
1968	1	2	2	—	5	—	—	1	—	1

The Mobile Chest X-Ray Unit now visits Biggleswade regularly to provide a service for local medical practitioners. It is stationed at "The Lawns" every Tuesday morning, between 11.15 a.m. and 11.45 a.m.

7. SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

(a) Public Water Supply

Water is supplied by Bedfordshire Water Board and is pumped from the Greensand at works in Biggleswade, Dunton and Meppershall.

The Water Board take samples at frequent intervals from various points in the distribution system.

Results of bacteriological examination of the raw water are not available, but the following reports are typical of the samples taken for chemical examination at weekly intervals and indicate that it is of a high standard of organic purity.

It is not plumbo-solvent and is satisfactory in quantity.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

(in parts per million)

	Pumping Stations at		
	<i>Biggleswade</i>	<i>Dunton</i>	<i>Meppershall</i>
Turbidity	Nil	Nil	Nil
Colour	Nil	Nil	Nil
Reaction pH	7.29	7.39	7.40
Electric Conductivity ..	510	410	360
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ..	Nil	0.02	Nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen ..	0.03	0.03	0.04

Chemical Analysis—cont. (in parts per million)

	Works at—	<i>Biggleswade</i>	<i>Dunton</i>	<i>Meppershall</i>
Nitrate Nitrogen	..	0.3	0.2	0.3
Chlorine in Chlorides	..	18	16	13
Carbonate Hardness as				
CaCO ₃	234	202	168
Non-Carbonate Hardness				
as CaCO ₃	58	12	35
Total Hardness as CaCO ₃	292	214	203
Calcium as CaCO ₃	250	191	164
Magnesium as CaCO ₃	42	23	39
Free Carbon Dioxide	24	17	14
Iron as Fe	0.04	0.03	0.02
Lead, Copper, Zinc	None found	None found	None found
Sodium as Na	10	11	6
Potassium as K	3	3	4
Manganese as Mn	None found	None found	None found
Fluorine as F	0.14	0.15	0.28
Silica	9	9	10
Phosphate as PO ₄	Less than	Less than	Less than
		0.10	0.10	0.10

In addition to the samples taken by the Water Board, your Public Health Department also submit samples at regular intervals for examination by The Public Health Laboratory Service at Bedford.

During the year 12 such samples were taken, all of which proved satisfactory.

(b) Privately Owned Sources

During the year 3 unsatisfactory wells were closed, thus reducing the number of privately owned wells and boreholes to 13. The number of premises served by these sources is 16 dwellings and 1 flour mill.

Water from such sources is sampled regularly and during the year 27 samples were submitted to The Public Health Laboratory for examination. Of these, 21 were found to be satisfactory. 1 was suspicious and 5 were unsatisfactory.

Your inspectors are constantly endeavouring to secure the improvement of the unsatisfactory supplies and in all cases where doubt exists as to the purity of the supply, householders are advised to boil all water intended for drinking purposes.

(c) Distribution of water

The following table shows the estimated population at the end of the year supplied from public mains, the number of houses with a direct mains supply and the number having a private supply:—

PARISH	Estimated Population supplied from mains	Estimated Number of Houses		
		With direct mains supply	Mains supply to standpipe	Dependent on other source
Arlesey	3516	1301	—	2
Astwick	30	13	—	—
Blunham	763	288	—	—
Campton	396	142	—	3
Chicksands* ..	15	8	—	2
Clifton	2208	696	—	—
Cockayne Hatley	100	34	—	—
Dunton	520	190	—	1
Edworth	45	23	—	—
Everton	355	151	—	—
Eyeworth	90	26	—	1
Henlow*	2330	555	—	1
Langford	2291	812	—	—
Meppershall ..	838	312	—	—
Mogerhanger ..	621	220	—	—
Northhill	1800	585	—	3
Old Warden ..	400	101	—	1
Potton	2869	1028	—	1
Shefford	2643	904	—	—
Southill	1600	378	—	2
Stotfold†	5200	1742	—	—
Sutton	321	103	—	—
Tempsford	460	125	—	—
Upper Stondon ..	70	24	—	—
Wrestlingworth ..	463	176	—	—

*These figures exclude Service Personnel.

†These figures exclude hospital patients and personnel.

(d) Drainage and Sewerage

(i) In 1967 the Consulting Engineers were asked to extend their investigations of the Arlesey/Stotfold and the Five Parish Sewerage Schemes, all of which at the present time are grossly overloaded. They were also asked to include in their investigations the parishes of Old Warden and Southill which are without public sewerage facilities.

The report was received too late for detailed consideration by the Council during 1968, but arrangements have been made for it to be considered in January 1969.

(ii) Satisfactory progress has been made on the provision of public sewerage facilities in Dunton and it is anticipated the scheme will be completed during the autumn of next year.

(iii) Unfortunately, very little progress has been made in connection with the provision of modern sewerage facilities in Potton.

The difficulties of discharging effluent from a new disposal works into a watercourse where satisfactory dilution would take place, were explained in my last report. Because of this, Biggleswade and Sandy Urban District Councils were approached with a view to discharging sewage from Potton to either of their works.

Unfortunately neither Authority was able to agree this suggestion and it has now been decided to lay pipes in the disused railway track between Potton and Sandy, in order that effluent may be discharged into the river Ivel.

Negotiations for the purchase of the railway track and for a site for a pumping station were in progress at the end of the year.

(iv) During the year it was reported to the Council that the disposal works at Wrestlingworth had reached its design capacity and the Consulting Engineers were instructed to carry out a feasibility study of the possibility of draining Eyeworth and Cockayne Hatley to an extended works at Wrestlingworth.

(v) It will shortly be necessary to consider the position at Tempsford where the disposal works are rapidly approaching their design capacity.

(e) Nightsoil and Cesspool Emptying

The work of night soil removal and cesspool emptying has continued to be carried out satisfactorily by a contractor who provides the labour and operates a cesspool emptying vehicle with a nightsoil attachment, which is provided and maintained by the Council.

The amount of work continues to decrease as an increasing number of property owners take advantage of the public sewerage facilities provided, and during the year there was a decrease of 440 in the weekly number of pails emptied whilst the number of cesspool emptyings fell from 1,575 in 1967 to 594 during 1968.

Nightsoil is disposed of by means of composting and the resulting manure is used for agricultural purposes. The contents of cesspools are spread on waste land which the Council hires. From time to time, farmers indicate they are prepared to accept a few loads on agricultural land, but this is only allowed when it is known the land will be ploughed immediately after application.

(f) Refuse Collection and Disposal

The weekly removal of all household refuse throughout the area is undertaken by two contractors, both of whom have discharged their duties in a most satisfactory manner throughout the year.

The paper sack method of storage and collection was extended in the parishes of Arlesey and Potton as from 1st April, 1968 and now covers some 2,385 houses. The sacks are used as bin liners and the scheme has again proved very successful in both parishes. Both

householders and collectors acknowledge it to be a great improvement on the original 'skep' method of collection and it is hoped this scheme may eventually be extended to cover the whole of the district. Defective bins are replaced by sack holders as necessary and sack-holders are supplied on new estates in lieu of refuse bins.

The householders have also greatly appreciated and have made full use of the scheme for the free removal of bulky refuse, and during the year no fewer than 247 requests were received for this service. Notices are displayed in the parishes and on the Council's vehicles, informing the public they may obtain addressed postcards from the collectors upon which they may request the service. In most cases, it is possible to arrange for the removal of the refuse within a week of receiving their request.

The quantity of refuse dumped on highway verges, etc. has shown a decrease during the year and in view of the service referred to above, one can only assume that non-residents of the area are in the main responsible for this objectionable practice.

Derelict and abandoned cars have presented a considerable problem and during the year no fewer than 67 have been dealt with as follows:—

Abandoned by persons unknown and removed by Council	13
Abandoned and removed to compound by police ..	1
Removed by owners after action by this department ..	15
Taken to tip by owners	24
Removed by Council at request of owners	13
Sold by Council and removed by purchaser	1

Difficulty has been experienced in the disposal of these vehicles mainly because in the majority of cases they are stripped of anything of value before they arrive at the refuse tip.

The method of refuse disposal is by means of controlled tipping at a disused gravel pit at Henlow. Refuse is covered daily and during the summer months it is regularly sprayed as a precaution against flies and other pests. The Rodent Operator also carries out regular treatment for rat infestation.

Because of the shortage of tipping space, it was decided to deepen the unused part of the pit and to raise the level of approximately 2 acres of low lying land adjoining the pit so that tipping could be continued at Henlow until such time as sufficient sand had been extracted at a pit at Deepdale, as would enable tipping operations to continue there, once they were started.

It is anticipated that this will enable tipping to take place at Henlow until about mid-summer or early autumn 1969 when it is hoped operations may commence at Deepdale and continue there for at least 15 years.

A joint working party consisting of representatives and officers of this Authority and Biggleswade and Sandy Urban District Councils is considering the problem of disposal so far as it affects

our three Authorities and towards the end of the year the Council authorized your Chief Public Health Inspector to attend meetings with North Hertfordshire Authorities to consider the wider problems of disposal arising in South Bedfordshire and North Hertfordshire.

Only one meeting with the Hertfordshire Authorities was held in the year under review, when it was decided to seek the views and guidance of the Ministry of Housing & Local Government on the problem. In view of this it was decided to hold no further meetings of the South Bedfordshire Working Party until the views of the Ministry were known.

(g) Inspection of the Area

The following summary gives details of the visits and inspections made during the year:—

General Sanitation

Water Supply	51
Drainage	322
Watercourses	23
Piggeries	11
Scavenging	1,501
Abandoned and derelict cars	97
Atmospheric pollution	19
Places of entertainment	17
Noise nuisances	9
Animal Boarding Establishments	13
Offices, shops and railway premises	162
Factories, workplaces and outworkers	91

Housing

Public Health Acts	391
Housing Act	279
Overcrowding	1
Caravan dwellings	52
Caravan sites	35
Improvement Grants	105

Infectious Disease, etc.

Investigations	57
Immigrants re Health Service, etc.	16

Meat: Food Inspection

Slaughterhouses	673
Butchers	117
Food preparation premises	56
Canteens	5
Restaurants	17
Grocers	149

Greengrocers	20
Mobile shops	13
Licensed premises	59

A considerable amount of work has again been achieved by informal action during the year, but in 5 cases it was necessary to serve notices under the Public Health Act to abate nuisances. Formal notices were also served in respect of 8 dangerous structures.

In each case, the owners complied with the requirements of the notices and recourse to the Court was unnecessary.

(h) Rodent Control

One whole time Rodent Operator is employed by the Council and he is responsible for carrying out surveys and the treatment of infested premises. The service is free in respect of domestic premises and a small charge is made for any work carried out at business premises.

The operator carries out regular inspections and treatments at the refuse tip and all sewage disposal works. Routine test-baiting of sewers is also undertaken and if infestations are found, the necessary treatment is carried out.

The following table indicates the amount of work carried out during 1968:—

	<i>Type of property</i>	
	<i>Non-</i>	<i>Agricultural</i>
	<i>Agricultural</i>	
(a) Total number of properties inspected following notification	541	8
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats ..	312	5
(ii) Mice ..	35	—
(c) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification ..	947	—
(d) Number infested by (i) Rats ..	70	—
(ii) Mice ..	18	—

(i) Lodging Houses

There are no lodging houses in the district.

(j) Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Routine inspections of premises under this Act were carried out during the year and a total of 162 visits were made. As a result, 9 minor contraventions were found and subsequently remedied.

Two retail shops and one office were registered during the year.

Section 48 of the Act requires occupiers of premises to notify this Authority of any accident involving employees which causes disablement for more than three days. Two such accidents were reported during the year; one involving a fall from a step ladder in a grocery warehouse and the other a fall from a stationary lorry whilst delivering goods.

The number and types of premises registered at the end of the year were as follows:—

<i>Type of premises</i>	Number registered	Persons employed
Offices	24	343
Retail shops	60	204
Wholesale shops, warehouses, etc. ..	7	69
Catering establishments, canteens ..	9	34

FOOD

(a) Slaughterhouses

The two licensed slaughterhouses have continued to operate throughout the year and a total of 21,948 animals were slaughtered as compared with 25,237 in the previous year. To ensure that all carcasses are inspected before they leave the slaughterhouses, necessitates one inspector working almost whole time on meat inspection.

(b) Inspection of Meat

The following summary indicates the number of animals slaughtered and the incidence of disease found as the result of post mortem inspection:—

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	4,750	143	42	5,291	11,722
Number inspected	4,750	143	42	5,291	11,722
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI:					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	3	4	36	49
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2,765	90	19	270	2,535
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis or cysticerici	58.21	65.03	54.76	5.78	22.05
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	207
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	1.80
CYSTICERCI:					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	7	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	7	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—

All cases of *Cysticerci* were localised and were subject to the prescribed refrigeration treatment.

The total weight of meat condemned during the year was 24 tons 11 cwt. 3 qrs. 18 lbs as compared with 30 tons 2 cwt. 2 qrs. 1 lb. the previous year.

(c) Other Foods

In addition to the above, the following other foods were found to be unfit for human consumption and destroyed:—

Canned meats	..	..	..	3 qrs.	15 lbs.
Other canned foods	..	..	8 cwt.	1 qr.	12 lbs.
Frozen foods	..	..	..		25 lbs.
Fish .. .. .	..	..	..	1 qr.	0 lbs.
Total ..				9 cwt.	2 qrs. 24 lbs.

(d) Milk Supplies—*Brucella Abortus*

No samples of milk were taken for evidence of *Brucella Abortus*. This work is undertaken by the County Public Health Inspector.

(e) Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations 1963

There are no liquid egg pasteurization plants in the district.

(f) Food Hygiene (General) Regulation) 1960

The number of food premises in the district is set out in the following table, each establishment being counted only once according to the main business carried out.

<i>Type of business</i>	<i>Number in district</i>
Grocers	62
Butchers	20
Bakers and confectioners	9
Fishmongers	5
Fruiterers and greengrocers	8
Hotels, cafes, restaurants and other catering establishments	11
Public houses	77

All premises are fitted to comply with Regulation 16. There are 138 premises to which regulation 19 applies. All are fitted to comply with this regulation.

(g) Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing establishments within the district.

(h) Ice Cream

No premises are registered under the Food & Drugs Act for the manufacture of Ice Cream. 97 establishments however, are registered for the sale of prepacked ice cream.

(l) Licences to deal in game

8 Licences to deal in game were issued in 1968.

HOUSING

(a) Housing Conditions

The detailed survey of occupied dwellings included in a provisional list of properties prepared some time ago and which were considered to merit slum clearance procedure during the next 5 years, has been completed and a report submitted to the Council in April indicated there were 90 unfit dwellings incapable of repair at a reasonable cost.

Action taken under Slum Clearance procedure, may be summarized as follows:—

Demolition Orders made	..	..	..	..	..	7
Closing Orders	..	..	..	..	..	10
Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted	..	..	..	..	..	1
Demolition Orders revoked	..	..	..	..	..	1
Closing Orders revoked and demolition order substituted	..					4
Applications refused for determination of Closing Orders						2
Undertakings to repair accepted	..	..	..	..		4
Dwellings demolished (including 4 by Council in default of owners)	..	..				21

45 houses and 6 bungalows were erected by the Council and 13 tenancies were allocated to occupants of houses in respect of which demolition or closing orders had been made.

103 dwellings were erected by private enterprise.

(b) Improvement Grants

70 applications for Improvement Grants were received and approved during the year as compared with 77 in the previous year. These may be summarised as follows:—

(i) Standard

Number of applications received and approved.

Owner/Occupiers .. 24

Tenanted 11

Total cost approved for grant purposes £6,797 0 0

Average grant per house £194 0 0

Amenities provided:—

Fixed bath 25

Shower 6

Wash hand basin 32

Hot water supply 33

Water closet within dwelling .. 33

Food store 29

(ii) Discretionary

Number of applications received and approved

Owner/Occupiers .. 16

Tenanted 9

Total cost approved for grant purposes £7,394 0 0

Average grant per house £296 0 0

(c) Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960

At the end of the year there were 14 licensed sites accommodating a total of 133 caravans.

There is no serious gipsy problem in the area.

CLEAN AIR ACT 1956

Section 3 (3) of the above Act requires a person proposing to install a furnace or boiler, other than a domestic boiler with a

heating capacity less than 55,000 Btu. per hour, to give notice of intention to the local authority.

One such application for the installation of a melting furnace in a foundry at Stotfold was received and approved after necessary modifications had been made.

Observations of smoke emission from industrial chimneys were carried out and I am pleased to report that no infringements of the Act were noted.

Three complaints of nuisance from domestic bonfires and the burning of industrial waste on factory premises were dealt with during the year.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

There are 4 Animal Boarding Establishments in the area. 13 visits were made to these premises during the year and all were found to be maintained in a satisfactory condition.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS' ACT 1964

The number of registered scrap metal dealers in the area is 10. As itinerant dealers 6 of these are exempted from the requirement of keeping certain records.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

(Part 1)

1. Inspections for the purpose of provision as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors):

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of written Notices and Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	9	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	96	87	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	—	—	—
Total	101	96	—

2. Cases in which defects were found:

	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To Inspector	H.M. By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ..	2	2	—	1	—
Overcrowding ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temp. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient ..	2	2	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	7	6	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	—	—	—	1	—
Total	11	10	—	4	—

3. Outwork (Section 133 & 134)

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 133(1)(c).	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises
Wearing apparel	15	—	—	—

